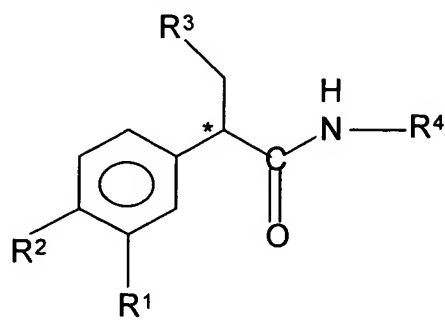


What is claimed is:

1. A compound comprising an amide of the formula:



wherein, the * indicates an asymmetric carbon atom,

R¹ and R² are independently hydrogen, halo, amino, hydroxyamino, cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, -OR⁵, -C(O)OR⁶, perfluoro-lower alkyl, lower alkyl thio, perfluoro-lower alkyl thio, lower alkyl sulfonyl, lower alkoxy lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, lower alkyl sulfinyl, or sulfonamido; R³ is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms or lower alkyl having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms;

R⁴ is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen, with one heteroatom being nitrogen which is adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom; said mono-substituted heteroaromatic ring being monosubstituted at a position on a ring carbon atom other than adjacent to said connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, halo, nitro, cyano, perfluoro-lower alkyl, oxo, -(CH₂)_n-OR⁷, -(CH₂)_n-C(O)-OR⁷, -(CH₂)_n-C(O)-NH-R⁷, -C(O)C(O)-OR⁷, or -(CH₂)_n-NHR⁷; n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R⁵ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or perfluoro-lower alkyl; R⁶ is lower alkyl; and R⁷ is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the amide is the R configuration at the asymmetric carbon shown.
3. The compound of claim 1, wherein R³ is cycloalkyl having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms.
4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R³ is cyclopentyl.
5. The compound of claim 4, wherein R⁴ is unsubstituted thiazole.
6. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen, halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo, nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl.
7. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
8. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 2-(4-bromo-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
9. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
10. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
11. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

12. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

13. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

14. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

15. The compound of claim 6, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

16. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is amino, nitro, halo or hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is amino, cyano or nitro.

17. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

18. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 2-(4-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

19. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 2-(3-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

20. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-3-nitro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

21. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 2-(4-cyano-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

22. The compound of claim 16, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-nitrophenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

23. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkylthio, perfluoro-lower alkyl thio, halo or hydrogen and the other is perfluoro-lower alkylthio, lower alkylsulfinyl or lower alkylthio.

24. The compound of claim 23, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethylsulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

25. The compound of claim 23, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

26. The compound of claim 23, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

27. The compound of claim 23, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

28. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl, hydrogen, nitro, amino, cyano, hydroxylamino, sulfonamido or halo, and the other of said R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

29. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

30. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-nitrophenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

31. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 2-(3-amino-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
32. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-hydroxyamino-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
33. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 2-(3-cyano-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
34. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-ethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
35. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 2-(3,4-bis-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
36. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-sulfamoyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
37. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 2-[4-(butane-1-sulfonyl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
38. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(propane-1-sulfonyl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
39. The compound of claim 28, wherein said amide is (2R)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonylphenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
40. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl, and the other is halo or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

41. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

42. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide

43. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

44. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

45. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 2-[3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

46. The compound of claim 40, wherein said amide is 2-(3-bromo-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

47. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl or hydrogen and the other is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl.

48. The compound of claim 47, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

49. The compound of claim 47, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(3-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

50. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is -OR⁵, or -C(O)-OR⁶ and the other of said R¹ and R² is hydrogen or -OR⁵; and R⁵ and R⁶ are as above.

51. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-propionamide.

52. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

53. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-hydroxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

54. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dimethoxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

55. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dihydroxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

56. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

57. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

58. The compound of claim 50, wherein said amide is 4-[2-cyclopentyl-1-(thiazol-2-ylcarbamoyl)-ethyl]-benzoic acid methyl ester.

59. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is $-OR^5$ and the other is halo.

60. The compound of claim 59, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-methoxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

61. The compound of claim 59, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

62. The compound of claim 5, wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen and the other is lower alkoxy lower alkyl sulfonyl.

63. The compound of claim 62, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methoxymethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide

64. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is a mono-substituted thiazole with said substituent.

65. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is -(CH₂)_n-OR⁷ and n and R⁷ are as above.

66. The compound of claim 65, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo and the other of said R¹ and R² is hydrogen or halo.

67. The compound of claim 66, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(5-hydroxymethyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

68. The compound of claim 66, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-propionamide.

69. The compound of claim 66, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-hydroxymethyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

70. The compound of claim 66, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(4-hydroxymethyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

71. The compound of claim 65, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl, and the other of said R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl or hydrogen.

72. The compound of claim 71, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-(4-hydroxymethyl-thiazol-2-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

73. The compound of claim 71, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-thiazol-2-yl]-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

74. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is lower alkyl.

75. The compound of claim 74 wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen or halo and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo.

76. The compound of claim 75, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

77. The compound of claim 75, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(5-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

78. The compound of claim 74 wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other is hydrogen or halo.

79. The compound of claim 78, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-(4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

80. The compound of claim 78, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-(5-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

81. The compound of claim 78, wherein said amide is 2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

82. The compound of claim 78, wherein said amide is 2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(4-methyl-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

83. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)-OR^7$ wherein n is 0 or 1 and R^7 is hydrogen, or lower alkyl.

84. The compound of claim 83, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other is halo.

85. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is {2-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

86. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is {2-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

87. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is 2-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

88. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is 2-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

89. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is {2-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

90. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is 2-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

91. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is 2-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

92. The compound of claim 84, wherein said amide is {2-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

93. The compound of claim 83, wherein one of R¹ or R² is halo and the other is perfluoro-lower alkyl.

94. The compound of claim 93 wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

95. The compound of claim 83, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently halo.

96. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid.

97. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

98. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid.

99. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid.

100. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

101. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is (2R)-2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

102. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

103. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

104. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

105. The compound of claim 95, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

106. The compound of claim 83, wherein one of R¹ or R² is nitro, amino or hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is nitro or amino.

107. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

108. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

109. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

110. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

111. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is {2-[2-(4-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

112. The compound of claim 106, wherein said amide is 2-[2-(4-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

113. The compound of claim 83, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl, halo or hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

114. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is (2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

115. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is (2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

116. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

117. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-4-acetic acid methyl ester.

118. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-acetic acid methyl ester.

119. The compound of claim 113, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

120. The compound of claim 83, wherein one of R¹ and R² is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other is hydrogen, halo, or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

121. The compound of claim 120, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

122. The compound of claim 120, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

123. The compound of claim 120, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-acetic acid methyl ester.

124. The compound of claim 120, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-yl}-acetic acid ethyl ester.

125. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is -C(O)-C(O)-OR⁷ wherein R⁷ is as above.

126. The compound of claim 125, wherein one of R¹ and R² are hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is nitro or amino.

127. The compound of claim 126, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

128. The compound of claim 125, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or perfluoro-lower alkyl and the other of said R¹ and R² is perfluoro-lower alkyl, halo or hydrogen.

129. The compound of claim 128, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]thiazol-5-yl}-oxo-acetic ethyl ester.

130. The compound of claim 128, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

131. The compound of claim 128, wherein said amide is {2-[3-cyclopentyl 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

132. The compound of claim 128, wherein said amide is (2R)-{2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-5-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

133. The compound of claim 128, wherein said amide is (2R)-{2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

134. The compound of claim 125, wherein said one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen or halo and the other of said R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

135. The compound of claim 134, wherein said compound is {2-[2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-thiazol-4-yl}-oxo-acetic acid ethyl ester.

136. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is nitro.

137. The compound of claim 136 wherein R¹ and R² are each independently halo.

138. The compound of claim 136, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(5-nitro-thiazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

139. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is -(CH₂)_n-C(O)-NH-R⁷ and n and R⁷ are as in claim 1.

140. The compound of claim 139 wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other is halo or hydrogen.

141. The compound of claim 140, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-5-carboxylic acid amide.

142. The compound of claim 140, wherein said amide is 2-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-thiazole-4-carboxylic acid amide.

143. The compound of claim 64, wherein said substituent is halo.

144. The compound of claim 143, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or hydrogen and the other is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

145. The compound of claim 144, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

146. The compound of claim 144, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-thiazol-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

147. The compound of claim 144, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

148. The compound of claim 144, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

149. The compound of claim 144, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

150. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is unsubstituted pyridine.

151. The compound of claim 150, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo and the other is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

152. The compound of claim 151, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

153. The compound of claim 150, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl or hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl, amino, cyano or nitro.

154. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3-fluoro-4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

155. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

156. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-propionamide.

157. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

158. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 2-(4-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

159. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 2-(4-cyano-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

160. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

161. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-3-nitro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

162. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

163. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(R)-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

164. The compound of claim 153, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

165. The compound of claim 150, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl thio, perfluoro-lower alkyl thio or cyano, and the other is hydrogen.

166. The compound of claim 165, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

167. The compound of claim 165, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethylsulfanyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

168. The compound of claim 150, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl, halo, cyano, nitro, or hydrogen and the other is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

169. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-nitrophenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

170. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

171. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 2-(3-bromo-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

172. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 2-(3-cyano-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

173. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-ethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

174. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 2-(3,4-bis-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

175. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

176. The compound of claim 168, wherein said amide is 2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

177. The compound of claim 150, wherein one of R¹ and R² is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, lower alkyl sulfonyl or hydrogen and the other is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

178. The compound of claim 177, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-pyridin-2-yl-propionamide.

179. The compound of claim 177, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-pyridin-2-yl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

180. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is a pyridine ring mono-substituted with one of said substituents.

181. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is cyano.

182. The compound of claim 181, wherein one of R¹ or R² is halo or perfluoro lower alkyl and the other is halo or lower alkyl thio.

183. The compound of claim 182, wherein said amide is N-(5-cyano-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfanyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

184. The compound of claim 182, wherein said amide is N-(5-cyano-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

185. The compound of claim 182, wherein said amide is N-(5-cyano-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionamide.

186. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)-OR^7$ wherein n and R⁷ are as above.

187. The compound of claim 186, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently halo.

188. The compound of claim 187, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-carboxymethylpyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.

189. The compound of claim 187, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

190. The compound of claim 187, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid.

191. The compound of claim 187, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-2(R)-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid.

192. The compound of claim 186, wherein one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen or halo and the other is halo, amino, cyano, nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

193. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid.

194. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

195. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

196. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-nitro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

197. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(4-amino-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

198. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid.

199. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[2-(4-cyano-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

200. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

201. The compound of claim 192, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

202. The compound of claim 186, wherein one of R¹ and R² is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, lower alkyl sulfonyl or hydrogen and the other is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl or lower alkyl sulfonyl.

203. The compound of claim 202, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

204. The compound of claim 202, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid.

205. The compound of claim 202, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionylamino]-nicotinic acid methyl ester.

206. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is $-(CH_2)_n-OR^7$ wherein n and R⁷ are as above.

207. The compound of claim 206, wherein one of R¹ and R² are halo and the other is hydrogen or halo.

208. The compound of claim 207, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-hydroxymethyl-pyridin-2-yl) propionamide.

209. The compound of claim 207, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-hydroxy-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

210. The compound of claim 207, wherein said amide is 2-(4-chloro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-hydroxymethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

211. The compound of claim 207, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(5-hydroxy-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

212. The compound of claim 206, wherein one of R¹ and R² is lower alkyl sulfonyl or hydrogen and the other is lower alkyl sulfonyl.

213. The compound of claim 212, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-hydroxymethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

214. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is halo or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

215. The compound of claim 214, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or perfluoro-lower alkyl and the other is halo, nitro, lower alkyl sulfonyl, or lower alkyl thio.

216. The compound of claim 215, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

217. The compound of claim 215, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

218. The compound of claim 215, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(4-chloro-3-nitro-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide

219. The compound of claim 215, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

220. The compound of claim 214, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or hydrogen and the other is halo.

221. The compound of claim 220, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-propionamide.

222. The compound of claim 220, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-bromopyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.

223. The compound of claim 220, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

224. The compound of claim 220, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-propionamide.

225. The compound of claim 220, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2(R)-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-propionamide.

226. The compound of claim 214, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo, nitro or hydrogen and the other is perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl or lower alkyl sulfonyl.

227. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

228. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

229. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-nitro-phenyl)-propionamide.

230. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is 2-(3-bromo-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

231. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

232. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is 2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

233. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-chloro-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

234. The compound of claim 226, wherein said amide is N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

235. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is nitro.

236. The compound of claim 235, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or perfluoro-lower alkyl and the other is halo or lower alkyl thio.

237. The compound of claim 236, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methylsulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-(5-nitro-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

238. The compound of claim 236, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-(5-nitro-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

239. The compound of claim 236, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-nitropyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.

240. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is lower alkyl.
241. The compound of claim 240, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo and the other is lower alkyl sulfonyl.
242. The compound of claim 241, wherein said amide is 2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.
243. The compound of claim 240, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo or hydrogen and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl, lower alkyl sulfonyl, or perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl.
244. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(5-methylpyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.
245. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(4-methylpyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.
246. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-N-(6-methylpyridin)-2-yl-propionamide.
247. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.
248. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-N-(5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.
249. The compound of claim 243, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-(5-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

250. The compound of claim 180, wherein said substituent is $-(CH_2)_n-C(O)-NH-R^7$ wherein n and R^7 are as above.

251. The compound of claim 250, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is halo or hydrogen and the other of said R^1 and R^2 is halo, or lower alkyl sulfonyl.

252. The compound of claim 251, wherein said amide is 6-[3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichloro-phenyl)-propionylamino]-N-methyl-nicotinamide.

253. The compound of claim 4 wherein R^4 is unsubstituted imidazolyl.

254. The compound of claim 253 wherein one of R^1 and R_2 is lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other is nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl.

255. The compound of claim 254, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-nitro-phenyl)-propionamide.

256. The compound of claim 254, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-N-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

257. The compound of claim 253, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of halo and hydrogen and the other of said R^1 and R^2 is halo, or lower alkyl sulfonyl.

258. The compound of claim 257, wherein said amide is 2-(3-Bromo-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

259. The compound of claim 257, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)-propionamide.

260. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is an isoxazolyl ring.

261. The compound of claim 260, wherein said ring is substituted with a lower alkyl substituent.

262. The compound of claim 261, wherein one of R¹ or R² is halo, nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl, or lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other of said R¹ or R² is hydrogen or halo.

263. The compound of claim 262, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-(5-methyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-propionamide.

264. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is unsubstituted oxazolyl.

265. The compound of claim 264, wherein one of R¹ or R² is halo, nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl or lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other of said R¹ or R² is hydrogen or halo.

266. The compound of claim 265, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-oxazol-2-yl-propionamide.

267. The compound of claim 4 wherein R⁴ is an unsubstituted thiadiazolyl ring.

268. The compound of claim 267, wherein one of R¹ or R² is halo, nitro or perfluoro-lower alkyl or lower alkyl sulfonyl and the other of said R¹ and R² is hydrogen or halo.

269. The compound of claim 268, wherein said amide is 3-cyclopentyl-2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[1,3,4]thiadiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

270. The compound of claim 1, wherein R³ is cyclohexyl.
271. The compound of claim 270, wherein R⁴ is unsubstituted thiazolyl.
272. The compound of claim 271, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl, and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl or hydrogen.
273. The compound of claim 272, wherein said amide is 3-cyclohexyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
274. The compound of claim 272, wherein said amide is 3-cyclohexyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.
275. The compound of claim 1, wherein R³ is cycloheptyl.
276. The compound of claim 275, wherein R⁴ is unsubstituted thiazolyl.
277. The compound of claim 276, wherein one of R¹ and R² is halo, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro-lower alkyl, and the other of said R¹ and R² is halo, perfluoro-lower alkyl or hydrogen.
278. The compound of claim 277, wherein said amide is 3-cycloheptyl-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.